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LETTER DATED 12 APRIL 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I am pleased to transmit here herewith a letter dated 12 April 1992 from Mr. Ahmad Hussein, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the statement by the Council on 10 April 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abdul Amir A. AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 12 April 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

The way in which the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission understood the letter dated 9 April 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. concerning the flights of the U-2 aircraft and the way in which the Security Council dealt with the subject gives rise to amazement, especially following the clarifications given by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. to the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission, which the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission did not transmit to the Council.

The purpose of our above-mentioned letter was to draw the attention of the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission to the dangers to which the above-mentioned aircraft might be exposed by reason of the recent hostile action of the Iranian Air Force in Iraqi airspace and the Iraqi defensive counter-action. No reference to exposure to danger from Iraq was intended, although it is our view, which we have always expressed, that this aircraft serves purposes prejudicial to Iraqi sovereignty and security.

We believe that it would have been logical for the Council to acquaint itself with Iraq's viewpoint before resorting to the issuance of precipitate judgements on the matter.

Accordingly, Iraq cannot accept the language contained in the President's statement issued on 10 April 1992. Iraq affirms its desire to continue constructive cooperation with the Security Council and the Special Commission.

It affirms also that it did not intend and does not intend to carry out any military operation aimed at the above-mentioned aircraft, although it is natural to wonder how Iraq can assume responsibility for its security in the circumstances of the occurrence of an external aerial threat to Iraq, such as the Iranian attack that took place on 5 April 1992, particularly as the Special Commission does not supply us with the aircraft's line of flight, although the Iraqi authorities requested it from Mr. Kevin St. Louis, a staff member in the office of the Special Commission at Baghdad on 7 April 1992, but we received no reply.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ahmad HUSSEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Baghdad, 12 April 1992